Northern Network for Medical Humanities Research: 2025 Congress

TONGUES: Medical Humanities across Linguistic and Cultural Frontiers

21-23 May 2025, Lancaster University, UK (online)

Organisers: Dr Benjamin Dalton, Dr Alex Wragge-Morley, Dr Stephanie Wright

Link to register: TONGUES: Medical Humanities across Linguistic and Cultural Frontiers Tickets, Wed 21 May 2025 at 09:00 | Eventbrite

WEDNESDAY 21 MAY

9.00-9.20 (all times BST/UTC+1)

Welcome, introduction, and housekeeping

9.30-11.00

Panel 1A: Medical Humanities in Different Languages

Chair: Benjamin Dalton

Languages: English

Corinne Doria (Chinese University of Hong Kong, Shenzhen), 'Bridging the Gap: Linguistic Barriers and the Development of Medical Humanities in China'

Julián Bohórquez and Ivory Day (Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México and Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne), 'Language and Medical Concepts in Latin America: A Move Away from Anglocentrism'

Beata Koper (University of Opole), 'The Sick Person, the Disease, and the Experience of Illness: What Do Polish Scholars Write About When They Write About Malady'

Panel 1B: Narrative Medicine

Chair: Alex Wragge-Morley

Language: English

Anna Ovaska (Kone Foundation), 'Narrative Medicine and foreign language: Experiences from medical professionals who are learning Finnish'

Annie Zaidi (Durham University), 'Two Healing Qissas and Other Fabulous Interventions'

Síobhra Aiken (QUB), 'Narrating (and translating) illness as a minoritised language speaker: the case of the Irish language'

Panel 1C: Chronic illness and pain

Chair: Steph Wright

Language: English

Francisca Stutzin (University of Cambridge), 'What can the lived experience of chronicity teach us about long COVID? From illness narratives to structural injustice in chronic disease'

Jaya Mathur (Centre of Social Medicine and Community Health at Jawaharlal Nehru University), 'Towards a Multi-Lingual Lexicography of Pain'

Claire Jeantils (Durham University) and Sara Wasson (Lancaster University), 'Translating Chronic Pain Temporalities: The Benefits of Translation in Medical Humanities'

11.30-12.30: **Keynote: Professor Steven Wilson, 'The "Language Worlds" of Health and Illness'**

Chair: Benjamin Dalton

Language: English

12.30-13.30 Break for lunch

13.30-14.45

Panel 2A: Sensory languages

Chair: Alex Wragge-Morley

Language: English

Laura Eliza Enríquez (Concordia University), 'Sweet, sharp & pungent: The sense of taste in early modern scientific illustration, society, and culture'

Mohammadhossein Jahromi (Independent scholar), 'Language, Sensorium, and Medical Crisis; a sensorial anthropology of medical practice in ICU'

Rachel Hindmarsh (University of Oxford), 'Touch and Translation in Early Modern France and Beyond'

Ana Minozzo (University of Essex), 'Listening with one's body: A Psychosocial Ethnography'

Panel 2B: Literary Studies in the Age of Medical Humanities: Francophone Readings of the Field

Chair: Eftihia Mihelakis (Brandon University)

Language: French

Dominique Hétu (Brandon University), "'Une syntaxe plurielle de savoirs alternatifs": Literary Perspectives on Care and Illness'

Laurence Laneuville (Columbia University & Université de Montréal), 'Towards a French Canadian translation of narrative medicine'

Benjamin Gagnon-Chainey (Dalhousie University, Université Laval), 'Cannibaliser la clinique Catherine Mavrikakis ou la pulsion de mort queer des humanités médicales'

Panel 2C: Language and healthcare inequalities

Chair: Steph Wright

Language: Spanish, English

Elena Foulis (Texas A&M-San Antonio), 'El translenguaje, la cultura, y la comunicación para la equidad en la salud de la población latina de los EE.UU'

Inna Blus-kadosh (Bar-Ilan University), 'Beyond the Binary: Linguistic Challenges for Non-Binary Patients in Israeli Primary Care'

Shabnam Shaik (Wits – VIDA, South Africa), 'Navigating Stigma and Faith: Pluralistic Health Practices Among Muslims Living with HIV/AIDS in Durban, South Africa.'

15.00-16.45

Panel 3A: Politics and medical language

Chair: Steph Wright

Language: English

Pavel Vasilyev (HSE University, Moscow), 'Diagnosing Demshiza: Psychiatry, Popular Culture, and the Pathologization of Liberal Democracy in Post-Soviet Russia'

Shu Wan (University at Buffalo), 'Medicine or Miracle?: Deaf Cure and Its Ideological Implications in Socialist China'

Mu-Jeong Kho (University College London), 'Can the Multilingual Medical Humanities Truly Act as a Trigger to Self- Organise a New Resilient System of Healthcare Community?'

Panel 3B: Languages of Death

Chair: Alex Wragge-Morley

Language: French, English

Cris(tina) Robu (Davidson College), 'Traduire la maladie de l'autre: le microdialogue comme outil de deuil dans L'enfant hiver (2014) de Virginia Pésémapéo Bordeleau'

Maria Bouri (Panteion University of Political and Social Sciences), 'Languages of care and caring: semantics, practices and the case of palliative care'

Marzia Caporale (University of Scranton), 'Writing the Unspeakable: Negotiating Cancer and Death in Michela Murgia's Late Narratives'

Zoe Deetz (Franklin University Switzerland), 'Notions of Humanity in Frankensteinian Narratives: Becoming (Un)Human'

Panel 3C: Neurodivergent Humanities: Network Panel

Chair: Benjamin Dalton

Language: English

This panel introduces the ongoing work and future vision of the Neurodivergent Humanities Network, with a particular focus on inclusive research practices in the humanities for 2025–2026. It will spotlight key initiatives—such as our mentorship programme—and highlight recent research developed by members in response to the Congress' overarching theme.

The session will open with reflections from the inaugural cohort of our mentorship scheme. Dr Abs S. Ashley and Meg Fereday will speak about their collaboration, sharing insights into the value of navigating academic life through neurodivergent ways of processing, relating, and creating. Following this, network co-leads Dr. Daniel P. Jones and Dr. Nicola Simonetti will present examples of current research taking place within the network. Dr. Jones will discuss KLAZO, a 20-minute theatrical piece

exploring the experience of living with Tourette Syndrome, offering it as an artistic method for translating embodied experience into performance. Dr. Simonetti will present on collaborative authorship among neurodiverse writers, framing it as a dynamic and responsive mode for (re)creating neurodivergent experiences in literature. The panel will conclude with an open Q&A session, inviting attendees to engage with the presenters and contribute to the broader conversation around neurodivergent research practices and futures.

THURSDAY 22 MAY

Panel 4A: Medical humanities and the creative arts

Chair: Steph Wright

Language: English

Katharine Murphy (University of Exeter) and Olivia Glaze (University of Exeter; School of Advanced Studies, London), 'Reading Bodies: Narrating Illness in European Literatures and Cultures'

Martin Høybye (University of Southern Denmark), Maria Hallager Andersen (Aarhus University, Denmark), Mette Terp Høybye (Aarhus University, Denmark; Silkeborg Regional Hospital, Denmark), 'Transforming Bodily Agency: A film about Co-creative Movement Practice in Cancer Rehabilitation'

Panel 4B: Beyond the verbal: communicating health without words

Chair: Charlotte Baker

Language: English

Caroline (J.E.) Schep (Leiden University), '"The officers often found some spit-out pills on the road": Nonverbal doctor-patient communication in late-colonial Indonesia'

Melissa Tanti (Coventry University), Cathy Soreny (Sheffield Hallam University), and Jamie Preece (Stories Beyond Words Collective), 'Connecting marginalised speakers across disabled and multilingual communities - co-designing radically accessible creative research approaches for communication justice'

Ryan Weber (Geisinger Commonwealth School of Medicine, Pennsylvania, USA), 'On the (In)Compatibilities of Silence: Towards a Rhetoric of the Unspoken in Person-Centered Care'

Peter Haysom-Rodríguez (University of Leeds), 'An Aesthetic of Malignance: Portrayals of Cancer in Contemporary Brazilian Cinema'

11.15-13.00

Panel 5A: Vernaculars of healthcare

Chair: Alex Wragge-Morley

Language: English

Sayendri Panchadhyayi (School of Liberal Arts and Sciences, RV University, Bangalore), 'The Language of Care: Vernacularization against the 'expert logic'

Pooja Sagar (Manipal Academy of Higher Education, MAHE), 'Autobiographies of Malayali biomedical doctors: Culture, memory and medicine'

Purbita Das (Indian Institute of Science Education and Research Bhopal), 'Skin Deep: Vernacular Ecologies of HIV, Climate and Caste in West Bengal'

Elizaveta Pronicheva (NRU HSE — Saint-Petersburg), 'Between Body and Soul: Representation of Illness in the Diary of Prince Alexander Menshikov'

Panel 5B: Narrative Medicine and Intersectional Feminist Approaches to Trauma, Resilience, and Healing

Chair: Charlotte Baker

Language: English

Devaleena Das (University of Minnesota, Duluth), 'Healing Through Narrative: Trauma and Resilience in Shirin Neshat's film'

Jennifer Brady (University of Minnesota, Duluth), 'Bodies of Resilience: Female Narratives in Najat El Hachmi's Family Trilogy'

Jessica Gildersleeve (University of Southern Queensland), 'Pandemic Stories for Australian Children: Implications for Mental Health and Feminist Practice'

Panel 5C: Sexuality and gender

Chair: Steph Wright

Language: English

Amelia Reggi (University of Illinois), 'Bodies in Crisis: Idealized Femininity and the Curse of Womanhood in the Early 20th Century Italian Novel'

Katie Sutton (Australian National University) and Birgit Lang (University of Melbourne), 'Mysterium des Geschlechts (1933) and the affective appeal of sex research on screen'

Polina Kosaretskaya (HSE University, Moscow), 'Emancipation Through 'Nervous Disorder': Representation of Doctor-Female Patient Relationships in Nikolai Chernyshevsky's 'What Is to Be Done?'

13.00-14.00: Break for lunch

14.00-15.30

Panel 6A: Health languages in colonial and postcolonial contexts

Chair: Deborah Sutton

Language: English

Stephanie Boyle (New York City College of Technology), 'Clot Bey and the Establishment of Transnational Medical Orientalism in Egypt'

Niloufar Hosseinalipour (University of Minnesota Twin Cities), 'The Translatability of Ourika's Illness through a Web of Epistemic Violence in Claire de Duras' novella'

Yasmin Shafei (Center for Economic, Legal, and Social Studies and Documentation, Cairo), 'The Language of Lunacy: 19th Century Citizen Petitions and Cairo's State Asylum'

Panel 6B: Cross cultural flows of medical ideas and practices

Chair: Benjamin Dalton

Language: English

Chung Yen Cheng (Durham University), 'Reorienting Western Theories of Atmospheres: A Case Study of Qi-based Holistic Medicine in Taiwan and Northeast England'

Sree Lekshmi and Aratrika Das (School of Humanities and Social Sciences, Indian Institute of Technology, Indore, India), 'Narrating Bipolar Disorder in India: Memoirs, Metaphors, and Culture'

Amily Wang Guenier (Lancaster University), 'Metaphor and Medicine: a multi-case study of intercultural health communication of TCM doctors in UK clinics'

Panel 6C: Disability, language, and expression

Chair: Charlotte Baker

Language: English

Louise Creechan (Durham University), 'De-centring Literacy in the Critical Medical Humanities'

Tilly Guthrie (University of Sheffield), 'Language as touch: agency in tactile reading and the historical significance of Braille'

Melvin Mathew Thomas (Manipal Academy of Higher Education), 'Complex Embodiments: Mental Health, Identity, and Creative Expression'

16:00-17:00: **Keynote 2, Sophie Guingouain (Manchester Metropolitan University)**

'The obvious and not-so-obvious challenges when approaching medical translation'

Chair: Alex Wragge-Morley

Language: English

FRIDAY 23 MAY

9.30-11.00

Panel 7A: Creative Panel: Multi-tonal Reading: Breaking Down the Walls of the Asylum

Chair: Raluca Soreanu

Language: English

This creative panel will document an on-going public engagement project, authored by an interdisciplinary research collective (FREEPSY), which consists in voicing 'multi-tonal readings' of book *My Farewell to the Yellow House*, written in 1927 by Hungarian psychiatrist and psychoanalysts István Hollós, and recently translated to English (2024, 1968 Press).

The panel will comprise of seven individual short presentations, and one presentation of artistic practice and process, which draws on *My Farewell to the Yellow House* as its role in creating a series of sculptures/installations.

All speakers are part of 'FREEPSY: Free Clinics and a Psychoanalysis for the People: Progressive Histories, Collective Practices, Implications for our Times', based at the University of Essex, UK (freepsy.essex.ac.uk): Ana Čvorović, Ana Minozzo, Ana Tomcic, Ewan O'Neill, Ivan Ward, Julianna Pusztai, Lizaveta van Munsteren, Raluca Soreanu.

Panel 7B: Trauma-Informed ESL Strategies for Refugees with PTSD: An Online Interactive Workshop

Chair: Alex Wragge-Morley

Language: English

Speakers: Grace Cooke, Lorenzo Meira Gobel and Rory Hankins (all Lancaster University)

This online workshop invites attendees to explore trauma-informed approaches to teaching English as a Second Language (ESL) to refugees with PTSD, focussing on practical methods and cultural sensitivity within the context of medical humanities. The workshop aims to address the challenges faced by refugees recovering from trauma whilst navigating linguistic integration, something that requires collaboration, innovative and empathetic approaches to support the needs of refugees.

11.15-12.15: **Keynote 3, Professor Nandini Bhattacharya, Medicine and Its Alternatives in the Global South**

Chair: Steph Wright

Language: English

12.15-13.15: Break for lunch

13.15-14.30

Panel 8A: Media and commercial languages of illness and health

Chair: Alex Wragge-Morley

Language: English

Anya Griffiths (University of York), 'Restorative and Regenerative: A Linguistic Analysis of Advertisements for Cosmetics and Medicines in *The Morning Chronicle* (1800-1830).'

Caroline Williamson Sinalo and Murry Siyasiya (University College Cork and Malawi Institute of Journalism), 'National News Media Narratives of Mpox in Africa'

Zoe Deetz (Franklin University Switzerland), 'Propagandistic Rhetorical Devices of 1940s Malaria Prevention Advertisements: Frank Mack, Dr. Seuss, and Anthropomorphized Mosquitoes'

Panel 8B: Beyond text: creative practice and visual languages of health and wellbeing

Chair: Benjamin Dalton

Language: English

Darian Goldin Stahl (University of Northern British Columbia), 'Embodied Books: Evoking Sensory Understandings of Illness and Medicine through Artist's Books'

Velebita Koričančić (University Anahuac Mexico/National Autonomous University of Mexico), 'Paranoia in Frames: Visualizing Delusions in the Graphic Novel Adaptation of Ernesto Sábato's "Report on the Blind" by Alberto Breccia'

Sue Bae (Arizona State University), 'Graphic Suffering: Visual Cancer Narratives as Affective Community'

Panel 8C: Global mental health

Chair: Steph Wright

Language: English

Josh Clark (UCL), 'Moving beyond the biomedical model: conceptualising depression in English, French, and German'

Lizaveta Van Munsteren (FREEPSY, University of Essex), 'Rediscovering Bluma Zeigarnik's Pathopsychological Method'

14.30-16.00

Panel 9A: Doctor-patient communication

Chair: Steph Wright

Language: English, Spanish

Teodora Manea (University of Liverpool), 'The Other Voice of Medical Consultations. Medical Interpreting in the NHS'

Steve Thompson (Aberystwyth University), '"The most refined of modern cruelties": Medical provision and linguistic difference in Victorian Wales'

Paula Torres López (Universidad de Córdoba), 'OncoTRAD: elaboración de una herramienta para clarificar textos médicos'

Panel 9B: Translating illness and health

Chair: Benjamin Dalton

Language: English

Alexandra Barmpouti (Independent Scholar), 'Overcoming linguistic barriers when translating Greek into English in the history of medicine'

Nikolaos Papadogiannis (Stirling University), 'Translating interviews with Greek transgender HIV/AIDS activists'

Birgit Lang (University of Melbourne), 'Translating European Tongues: Eden and Cedar Paul and the quest for'